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EXAMINER

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EDELEMAN, B

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No.
09/224,918

Applicant(s)

Hunnlicutt et al.

Examiner

Bradley Edelman

Group Art Unit

2757

☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Jan 4, 1999

☐ This action is **FINAL**.

☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, **prosecution as to the merits is closed** in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 35 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 3 month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Disposition of Claim

☒ Claim(s) 1-28 is/are pending in the application

Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

☒ Claim(s) 1-28 is/are rejected.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

☒ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.

☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.

☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

☐ All ☐ Some* ☒ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been
☐ received.

☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____

☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

☒ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892

☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). _____

☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413

☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

--- SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES ---

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DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The term "fs" is unclear and is not disclosed anywhere in the specification, rendering the claim indefinite. Correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

4. Claims 1-4, 7-18, and 21-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Brown et al. (U.S. Patent no. 5,941,947, hereinafter "Brown").

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In considering claims 1 and 15, Brown discloses a system for providing access to a computer network by performing the steps comprising:

receiving a request from a user to access a resource on the computer network (col. 9, lines 16-17);

checking a first memory to determine if the user may access the resource (col. 26, lines 13-20);

providing the user with access to the resource if the first memory indicates that the user may access the resource (col. 26, lines 55-63);

checking a second memory to determine if the user may access the resource if the first memory does not indicate that the user may access the resource (col. 26, lines 20-24);

providing the user with access to the resource if the second memory indicates that the user may access the resource (col. 26, lines 20-24); and

storing information in the first memory indicating that the user may access the resource if, after checking the second memory, the second memory indicates that the user may access the resource (col. 26, lines 20-24).

In considering claims 2 and 16, Brown further discloses the first memory indicating that access to the resource has been previously provided to the user (col. 26, lines 55-62).

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In considering claims 3 and 17, Brown further discloses the user being represented in the first memory by a token (col. 15, lines 43-44, "32-bit account number").

In considering claims 4 and 18, Brown further discloses the token also representing a plurality of other users (col. 22, line 62 - col. 23, line 6).

In considering claims 7 and 21, Brown further discloses the resource being a file (col. 7, line 32).

In considering claims 8 and 22, Brown further discloses the resource being volume of files (col. 7, lines 28-29).

In considering claims 9 and 23, Brown further discloses the resource being a memory device (col. 7, lines 9-10).

In considering claims 10 and 24, Brown further discloses storing of the information in the first memory comprising overwriting other information associated with the resource in the first memroy (col. 27, lines 63-65).

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In considering claims 11 and 25, Brown further discloses writing a token for the user in the first memory over another token for another user that had last previous access to the resource (col. 28, lines 46-57).

In considering claims 12 and 26, Brown further discloses if the resource is altered, removing indications from the first memory allowing access to the resource (col. 27, lines 59-66).

In considering claims 13 and 27, Brown further discloses if rights to the user are altered, removing indications from the first memory allowing access to the resource (col. 27, line 66 - col. 28, line 2).

In considering claims 14 and 28, Brown further discloses the request from the user indicating an operation to perform with respect to the resource (col. 7, lines 18-37).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

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6. Claims 5, 19, and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brown in view of Teper et al. (U.S. Patent no. 5,815,665, hereinafter "Teper").

In considering claims 5 and 19, Brown fails to disclose tokens that represent anonymous users. Nonetheless, representing anonymous users with tokens is well known, as evidenced by Teper. In a similar art, Teper discloses a network system wherein users with particular identification numbers and access rights tokens remain anonymous to their service providers (col. 6, lines 38-45, col. 15, lines 35-45). A person having ordinary skill in the art would have readily recognized the desirability and advantages of using the teaching of Teper in the system taught by Brown to allow anonymous use over a completely untrusted public network such as the Internet (col. 7, lines 2-3). Therefore, it would have been obvious to use the teaching of Teper in the system taught by Brown.

In considering claim 20, Teper further discloses authorizing the user by checking a password provided by the user, and associating the token with the user after authorizing the user (col. 15, lines 21-45). Brown further discloses using a token to check the first memory (col. 26, lines 31-40).

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Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Bradley Edelman whose telephone number is (703) 306-3041. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Glen Burgess, can be reached on (703) 305-4792. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 305-7201.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-3900.


ZARNI MAUNG
PRIMARY EXAMINER

BE

December 16, 1999